

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 07414 272056Z

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ACTION ITF-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03 SSO-00

AID-05 FDRE-00 SS-15 DPW-01 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 NSCE-00 /049 W

----- 069942

R 251227Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3368

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7414

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, TH

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: (A) STATE 093166; (B) STATE 080168; (C) STATE 084127;
(D) BANGKOK 7413

SUMMARY: THERE ARE KHMER REFUGEES AT THE ROYAL THAI NAVAL BASE AT UTAPAO BESIDES THOSE BROUGHT BY THE USG TO THAILAND FROM CAMBODIA. THE MISSION HAS NOT ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARE AND RESETTLEMENT OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES OTHER THAN THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR OPERATION EAGLE PULL, AND WILL NOT DO SO WITHOUT DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL. THE RTG IS TALKING WITH ICEM AND ICRC ABOUT HELP WITH KHMER REFUGEES. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE ARE KHMER REFUGEES AT THE UTAPAO CAMP BESIDES THOSE BROUGHT TO THAILAND BY THE USG. THE CAMP IS LOCATED ON A THAI NAVAL BASE, AND THE RTG REQUESTED WE PUT INTO THE CAMP SOME 360 KHMER REFUGEES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WHO ARRIVED BY KHMER AIRFORCE PLANES. THESE ARE PERSONS WHO WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE USG TO BRING OUT MAP FUNDED AIRCRAFT. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT WE ACCEPT NO CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE PEOPLE'S CARE NOR ONWARD TRAVEL. WE ARE HOPEFUL, HOWEVER, THAT OUR RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND PAROLES TO KHMER REFUGEES OTHER THAN THOSE TRANSPORTED BY THE USG FROM CAMBODIA TO THAILAND WILL BE ACTED UPON FAVORABLY
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 07414 272056Z

(REFTEL D).

2. OUR ASSISTANCE IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL (B) WHICH PROVIDES FUNDS FOR CARE OF KHMER REFUGEES IN THAILAND. IT ALSO HELPS US TO MAINTAIN THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE FROM THE RTG ON THE PERSONS WE EVACUATED FROM PHNOM PENH.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE 360 PERSONS REFERRED TO ABOVE, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL (C), THE MISSION HAS ADDED A FEW PEOPLE TO THE CAMP WHO CAME ACROSS THE KHMER-THAI FRONTIER BY FOOT OR OTHER MEANS. THESE ARE INDIVIDUALS OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF PERSONS IN THE CAMP WHOM THE USG TRANSPORTED TO THAILAND, OR ARE INDIVIDUALS WHOM WE VERY CLEARLY WOULD HAVE EVACUATED HAD THEY BEEN ABLE TO GET TO POCHENTONG AIRPORT OR TO THE HELICOPTER EVACUATION LOADING ZONE.

4. THE RTG MAY DECIDE TO LOCATE MORE KHMER REFUGEES ON ITS NAVAL BASE. IT IS ALREADY CONSTRUCTING ONE CAMP FOR THIS PURPOSE AND IS CONTEMPLATING ANOTHER. THESE ARE SEPARATE FROM THE CAMP WE ARE OPERATING.

5. THE RTG IS IN COMMUNICATION WITH ICEM, AND ICRC, ABOUT ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIAN REFUGEES, BUT HAS NOT YET MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THEM FOR HELP.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO07414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750147-1055
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750414/aaaaamow.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 093166, 75 STATE 080168, 75 STATE 084127
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND
TAGS: SREF, CB, TH, ICRC, UNHCR, ICEM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006